

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 10465 221825Z

65

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 MCT-01

CAB-02 DOTE-00 FAA-00 OPR-02 A-01 IGA-02 /101 W

----- 015656

P R 221614Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1032

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 10465

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT ELAB ET

SUBJECT: EPMG TO CLAMP DOWN ON POSSIBLE STRIKES

SUMMARY: RUMORS OF IMPENDING STRIKES IN FIELDS OF TRANSPORTATION, WATER AND POWER SUPPLY WHICH HAD SURFACED WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS BECAME PARTIAL REALITY TODAY WHEN SEVERAL DISTRICTS OF ADDIS ABABA WERE WITHOUT WATER AND ELECTRICITY AS OF THIS MORNING. IN SHARPLY WORDED NEWS-PAPER ARTICLE, EPMG CHARGED EPRP ELEMENTS WITH INSTIGATING PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS TO GO ON STRIKE IN PROTEST AGAINST SEPT. 21 ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXCHANGE OF OLD ETHIOPIAN CURRENCY FOR NEW (ADDIS ABABA 10436). GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN GIVEN ORDERS "TO TAKE APPROPRIATE REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES ON THE SPOT AGAINST ANARCHISTS INTIMIDATING WORKERS TO STRIKE IN ORDER TO REVERSE ONGOING REVOLUTION." END SUMMARY:.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 10465 221825Z

1. SINCE REPORTEDBOYCOTT BY ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES

WORKERS AND OTHERS OF REVOLUTION DAY PARADE, THERE HAVE BEEN INCREASING UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT SOME EAL EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. THIS, COMBINED WITH SUDDEN ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY OF NEW MONETARY REFORM, LED TO RUMORS OF IMPENDING STRIKES BY TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AIRLINES, WATER AND POWER SUPPLY WORKERS. THIS MORNING PORTIONS OF CITY WERE INDEED WITHOUT WATER AND ELECTRICITY, AND SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF WORKERS AT TOBACCO MONOPOLY FAILED TO REPORT TO WORK, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS THAT EAL AND COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL ARE OPERATING ON NORMAL SCHEDULE.

2. ALTHOUGH ENTIRE CITY NOT AFFECTED AND THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE UNUSUAL SECURITY FORCE ACTIVITY ON STREETS, SHARPLY WORDED ANTI-EPRP ARTICLE IN TODAY'S PRESS INDICATES SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH EPMG VIEWS THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT. ARTICLE ACCUSES FORMER CONFEDERATION OF ETHIOPIAN LABOR UNIONS (CELU) LEADERSHIP OF COLLUDING WITH IMPERIALISTS AND BOURGEOISIE, WHILE PRETENDING TO PROMOTE INTEREST OF OPPRESSED WORKERS. IT DESCRIBED EPRP AS ANARCHIST GROUP COMPOSED OF OFFSPRING OF FEUDALISTS WHO HAD TRIED TO INFILTRATE WORKERS TO UNDERMINE REVOLUTION. SUCH ELEMENTS, ARTICLE CLAIMED, WOULD NATURALLY BE GRIEVED BY PROCLAMATION ON EXCHANGE OF CURRENCY NOTES, SINCE OLD CURRENCY WAS INTENDED TO BE USED BY THEM TO FINANCE ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES OR TO BE LOANED AT EXHORBITANT INTEREST RATES. AS RESULT, EPRP WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGING IN INSTIGATING PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS TO GO ON STRIKE.

3. ARTICLE EXHORTED PROGRESSIVE FORCES TO IGNORE EPRP AGITATION AND TO STRUGGLE AGAINST ENEMIES OF REVOLUTION. PMAC HAS GIVEN SECURITY FORCES ORDERS TO TAKE APPROPRIATE REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES ON SPOT AGAINST INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WHO INSTIGATE WORK STOPPAGES OR WHO GO ON STRIKE. AT SAME TIME GOVERNMENT ASSURED PROTECTION TO ALL WORKERS WHO REPORT ON SCHEDULE TO FULFILL THEIR ASSIGNED DUTIES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ADDIS 10465 221825Z

4. COMMENT: WHILE EPMG IS ATTEMPTING TO RELATE STRIKE ACTIONS TO CURRENCY REFORM, IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT WORKERS WOULD WALK OUT FOR THAT REASON ALONE. ALTHOUGH WAGE EARNER WITH MODEST CASH SAVINGS STORED UNDER MATTRESS WILL SUFFER TO SOME EXTENT FROM SURCHARGE ON EXCHANGE OF LARGER BILLS, BIG LOSERS HERE WILL BE MIDDLE-CLASS AND OTHERS WITH

LARGE CASH HOLDINGS, INCLUDING ETHIOPIANS AND LOCAL EXPATRIATES WHO HAVE TAKEN ETHIOPIAN CURRENCY ABROAD AND WHO WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY GETTING MONEY BACK INTO COUNTRY IN TIME TO MEET OCTOBER EXCHANGE DEADLINE. (WE ARE DUBIOUS THAT SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF FUNDS ARE INVOLVED IN LATTER CASE.)

5. MORE LIKELY CAUSE FOR STRIKES MIGHT BE AS RETALIATORY ACTION FOR EPMG STEP-UP OF ANTI-EPRP CAMPAIGN. WITHIN CITIES, LABOR UNIONS ARE STILL A KEY EPRP SOURCE OF SUPPORT. HENCE, IF EPRP IS TO MOBILIZE RESISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO NEUTRALIZE EPRP AS FOCAL POINT OF ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY COMPOSITION, ITS BEST HOPE TO DO SO IS THROUGH WORKERS.

6. ONE OTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT SINCE GOVERNMENT PIECEMEAL SCHEME FOR ORGANIZING REMAINING FIVE OF NINE BRANCH INDUSTRIAL UNIONS PRIOR TO CREATION OF ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (ADDIS ABABA 9960) HAS SO FAR STYMIED DISRUPTIVE EPRP EFFORTS SUCH AS HAD PROVEN SUCCESSFUL LAST SPRING, STRIKE DECISION MAY BE EFFORT TO AVOID THE INEVITABLE. END COMMENT. TIENKEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNITY RELATIONS, PUBLIC UTILITIES, GENERAL STRIKES, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS10465
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760358-0119
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760934/aaaabdaa.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EPMG TO CLAMP DOWN ON POSSIBLE STRIKES SUMMARY: RUMORS OF IMPENDING STRIKES IN FIELDS OF TRANSPORTATION, WATER AND POWER SUPPLY WHICH HAD SURFAC
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006